

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 345

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to commend Bobby O'Jay for twenty-five years of honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a disc jockey for WDIA-AM 1070 in Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Bobby O'Jay is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Mr. O'Jay's notable record of service as a disk jockey for WDIA-AM 1070 in Memphis, a radio market ranked forty-ninth in the United States; he and WDIA, which celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year, were honored at the second annual Real Music Festival at the DeSoto Civic Center; and

WHEREAS, a native of Batesville, Mississippi, Bobby O'Jay received his education at the Institute of Broadcast Arts in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, throughout his thirty-six years in the radio industry, Mr. O'Jay has lent his significant talents to numerous other stations, including WRMA in Montgomery, Alabama, WNOV and WAWA in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, WAMM in Flint, Michigan, WLOK in Memphis, KYOK in Houston, Texas, KKDA in Dallas, Texas, and WBMX and WVON in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, originally a pop, classical, and country station, WDIA, with the hiring of Nat. D. Williams in 1948, became a cultural phenomenon as the first station in the country programmed by African-Americans for African-Americans; Disk jockey/singer Rufus Thomas and blues icon B.B. King both got their starts at WDIA; and

WHEREAS, one of the more controversial deejays on WDIA due to his willingness to confront ministers, politicians, and the police throughout the years, Bobby O'Jay continues a long tradition of deejays who have demonstrated professional and personal excellence, serving as educators and offering quality public-affairs programming; and

WHEREAS, his many professional achievements aside, Mr. O'Jay enjoys the love and companionship of his wife, Sharon, his three sons, Joey, Nick, and Josh, and his three daughters, Bonita, Kacey, and Chandi; and

WHEREAS, Bobby O'Jay's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and recognize Bobby O'Jay upon twenty-five years of meritorious service to the people of Tennessee as a disk jockey for WDIA-AM 1070 in Memphis, even as we salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Mr. O'Jay our best wishes for his continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.